

April 24, 1975

balcony 41 ladies from the Womens Club of Scotia. That's Senator Rasmussen's district. Would you please recognize these folks.

Chair recognizes Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Not on the amendment.

SPEAKER: Senator Syas. We're speaking on the amendment, the Barnett amendment.

SENATOR SYAS: Just a quick. You know this here amendment reminds me that the Governor's going to hold a press conference. This is the way they handle press conferences. The press has the executive over and they shoot him with a lot of questions. I don't think that the Legislature should get into that area. If you want to go over and talk to him about something why the door, I've always found, swinging open. I've always got attention. You know we're doing something here that I'm affraid we're going to regret and that is this, national surveys show that . . . this is on the Federal level. . . that people are not thinking too highly of the executive branch. But national surveys also show that they're thinking a whole lot less of the legislative branch nationally. We, I'm affraid, are helping that very type of survey to . . . of the people watching to be true.

SPEAKER: Anyone else wish to speak on the Barnett amendment? Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, I'd like to ask Senator Syas a question. Senator Syas, I'm aware of the polls that you're talking about. Do you think there is a low regard for the legislative branch because it's insisting on its prerogatives and carrying out its responsibilities, or because people get the impression that the legislative branch at the national level is not carrying out its responsibilities?

SENATOR SYAS: I think it's because they can't get much done. They cannot reach ever a census of agreement on something to do right. They go round, and round, and round, and round, just like we're doing now. We never come to a decision . . . the legislative . . . by the mere set up . . . I'm going to answer it this way, Senator. The mere set up of a legislative branch, which I'm not critical of, when there's so many heads in it -- people, you can't reach an agreement very easily. Consequently when one man in executive he can reach an easy agreement. So it always puts the legislative branch in a disagreement and a bad light. I don't think you're going to improve that nationally. That's why I think . . . some . . . the executive branch has become stronger and stronger as the legislative branch has become weaker and weaker.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Syas, what you just said is what I'm getting at. You're making the legislative branch weaker and weaker. Here's what I want to ask you as the